



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 20, 2014

Mr. Eric A. Larson
Site Vice President
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating
Company
Beaver Valley Power Station
P. O. Box 4, Route 168
Shippingport, PA 15077

SUBJECT: BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION, UNIT 1 – RELAXATION OF THE SCHEDULE REQUIREMENTS FOR ORDER EA-12-049 "ISSUANCE OF ORDER TO MODIFY LICENSES WITH REGARD TO REQUIREMENTS FOR MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR BEYOND DESIGN BASIS EXTERNAL EVENTS" (TAC NO. MF0841)

Dear Mr. Larson:

By letter dated March 12, 2012 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML12054A735), the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) ordered FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC, the licensee) to take certain actions at Beaver Valley Power Station (BVPS), Units 1 and 2, associated with the Fukushima Near-Term Task Force Recommendations. Order EA-12-049 directed that actions be taken by licensees to develop and implement strategies to maintain or restore core cooling, reactor coolant system inventory, containment cooling, and spent fuel pool cooling capabilities during beyond design basis external events (BDBEE).

Section IV of the order states that licensees proposing to deviate from requirements contained in NRC Order EA-12-049 may request that the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, relax or rescind certain conditions. By letter dated April 25, 2014 (ADAMS Accession No. ML14115A376), the licensee informed the NRC of its request for a schedule relaxation of the full implementation schedule requirements for BVPS, Unit 1, as prescribed in Section IV.A.2 of NRC Order EA-12-049. The required Flexible Coping Strategies (FLEX) implementation date for BVPS, Unit 1, is currently scheduled for May 2015. FENOC has requested that the requirement for full implementation for BVPS, Unit 1, be relaxed to fall 2016.

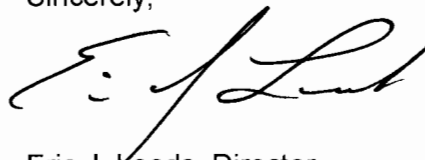
FENOC's letter dated April 25, 2014, provided a basis and justification for the request for schedule relief. The licensee's letter notes that recent testing of reactor coolant pump (RCP) low leakage seals has identified issues with the reliability of the current design to perform as assumed in the BVPS, Unit 1, FLEX strategies. The seal vendor is performing additional analysis to develop design changes, test, and qualify new generation seals. The requested extension would provide additional time for development of the new seal design, and for FENOC to safely plan, schedule, and install the new RCP seals at BVPS, Unit 1. Based on the timeline to complete these actions, FENOC is requesting a schedule relaxation to fall 2016 to accommodate an extension of one additional refueling cycle to implement the mitigation strategies for BVPS, Unit 1.

In light of the facts presented in FENOC's April 25, 2014, letter, the NRC staff has determined that the licensee has presented good cause for a relaxation of the order implementation date for BVPS, Unit 1. The extension would provide additional time to resolve the seal performance issues and fully design and safely implement modifications at BVPS, Unit 1. These are significant actions intended to enhance the licensee's capability to cope with a BDBEE. Furthermore, the requested extension will support compliance for BVPS, Unit 1, before December 2016. The NRC staff also considered that, following the accident at Fukushima Dai-ichi, the NRC concluded that a sequence of events such as the Fukushima Dai-ichi accident is unlikely to occur in the United States, based on the current regulatory requirements and existing plant capabilities. Therefore, the extension time of one additional refueling cycle for BVPS, Unit 1, to achieve full implementation of the requirements of the mitigation strategies order is justified and completion before December 2016 is consistent with the intent of the order. These circumstances lead the NRC staff to approve the relaxation of the order implementation date.

Accordingly, based upon the authority granted to the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, the requirement for full order implementation is relaxed for BVPS, Unit 1, until the completion of the fall 2016 refueling outage.

If you have any questions, please contact John Hughey, Mitigating Strategies Project Manager, at 301-415-3204, or at john.hughey@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric J. Leeds". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "L".

Eric J. Leeds, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-334

cc: Listserv

In light of the facts presented in FENOC's April 25, 2014, letter, the NRC staff has determined that the licensee has presented good cause for a relaxation of the order implementation date for BVPS, Unit 1. The extension would provide additional time to resolve the seal performance issues and fully design and safely implement modifications at BVPS, Unit 1. These are significant actions intended to enhance the licensee's capability to cope with a BDBEE. Furthermore, the requested extension will support compliance for BVPS, Unit 1, before December 2016. The NRC staff also considered that, following the accident at Fukushima Dai-ichi, the NRC concluded that a sequence of events such as the Fukushima Dai-ichi accident is unlikely to occur in the United States, based on the current regulatory requirements and existing plant capabilities. Therefore, the extension time of one additional refueling cycle for BVPS, Unit 1, to achieve full implementation of the requirements of the mitigation strategies order is justified and completion before December 2016 is consistent with the intent of the order. These circumstances lead the NRC staff to approve the relaxation of the order implementation date.

Accordingly, based upon the authority granted to the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, the requirement for full order implementation is relaxed for BVPS, Unit 1, until the completion of the fall 2016 refueling outage.

If you have any questions, please contact John Hughey, Mitigating Strategies Project Manager, at 301-415-3204, or at john.hughey@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Eric J. Leeds, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-334

cc: Listserv

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ADAMS Accession No. ML14120A049

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